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Gregory J. Koerner Redwood Patent Law 1291 East Hillsdale Boulevard Suite 205 Foster City, CA 94404			RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/700,813	HONG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Melur Ramakrishnaiah	2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-41 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-41 of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,362.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because, for example claim 1 6, of the current application is an obvious variation of claim 1 of 6,678,362.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8-13, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. (US 2003/0012353 A1, filed 7-9-2001, hereinafter Tung) in view of Kubota (JP2000-278628).

Regarding claim 8, Tang discloses a system for managing telephonic communications comprising: an electronic device (138, fig. 1) configured to communicate with a television programming source (166, fig. 1) and a telephone network (124, fig. 1), a television (156, fig. 1) coupled to the electronic device for displaying television programming from the television programming source, a telephone (130, fig. 1) coupled to the electronic device for receiving telephone calls from the telephone network (paragraphs: 0018-0019).

Tang differs from claims 8-13 in that he does not explicitly teach the following: electronic device including a TV mute manager for controlling a television mute mode that may be activated to mute the audio programming on the television when receiving the telephone calls, detecting an incoming call of the telephone calls from the telephone network, the phone manager then notifying the TV mute manager that incoming call has been detected, mute manager mutes audio programming on the television after the phone manager notifies the TV mute manager that the incoming call has been detected, mute manager generates and transmits an audio mute signal to the television in order to mute the audio programming, electronic device instructs the telephone to ring after audio programming has been muted so that a system user is notified about the incoming call.

However, Kubota discloses receiver which teaches the following: electronic device including a TV mute manager for controlling a television mute mode that may be activated to mute the audio programming on the television when receiving the telephone calls, detecting an incoming call of the telephone calls from the telephone network, the phone manager (reads on 2, drawing 1) then notifying the TV mute manager (reads on 4, Drawing 1) that incoming call has been detected, mute manager mutes audio programming on the television after the phone manager notifies the TV mute manager that the incoming call has been detected, mute manager generates and transmits an audio mute signal to the television in order to mute the audio programming, electronic device instructs the telephone to ring after audio programming has been muted so that a system user is notified about the incoming call (paragraphs: 0008, 0020-22, 0027).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Tang's system to provide for the following: electronic device including a TV mute manager for controlling a television mute mode that may be activated to mute the audio programming on the television when receiving the telephone calls, detecting an incoming call of the telephone calls from the telephone network, the phone manager (reads on 2, drawing 1) then notifying the TV mute manager (reads on 4, Drawing 1) that incoming call has been detected, mute manager mutes audio programming on the television after the phone manager notifies the TV mute manager that the incoming call has been detected, mute manager generates and transmits an audio mute signal to the television in order to mute the audio programming, electronic device instructs the telephone to ring after audio programming has been muted so that

a system user is notified about the incoming call as this arrangement would facilitate the reception of calls during watching television program without television audio sound interfering with the reception and handling of telephone call as taught by Kubota.

Regarding claim 9, Tang teaches the following: electronic device is implemented as a set top box (138, fig. 1).

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung in view of Kubota as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Davis et al. (US 2001/0036254A, hereinafter Davis).

The combination differs from claim 14 in that it does not teach the following: user utilizes the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time.

However, Davis teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time (abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time as this arrangement would facilitate receiving telephone calls when user is unable to answer the telephone calls and still obtain necessary information from telephone caller messages so that user can keep up with the telephone calls as is well known in the art.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tung in view of Kubota as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Friedel et al. (US PAT: 6,128,033, hereinafter Friedel).

The combination differs from claim 15 in that he does not teach the following: user utilizes the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device coupled to the electronic device.

However, Friedel discloses audio visual communication terminal which teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3) as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television (20, fig. 2), and microphone device (26, fig. 3) coupled to the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3, col. 4 lines 15-40; col. 5 lines 46-65).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device coupled to the electronic device as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, for handling audio information in connection with voice communication as taught by Friedel.

7. Claims 16-22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Ferry (US PAT: 6,052,444).

Regarding claim 16, Tang discloses a system for managing telephonic communications, comprising: an electronic device (138, fig. 1) configured to communicate with a television programming source (166, fig. 1) and a telephone network (170, fig. 1) a television (156, fig. 1) coupled to the electronic device for displaying television programming from the television programming source, a telephone (130, fig. 1) coupled to the electronic device for receiving telephone calls from the telephone network, the electronic device including a caller ID manager (this function is carried out by CPU 146, fig. 1) that controls caller ID mode (paragraphs: 0018-0019).

Tang differs from claim 16 in that he does not specifically teach activating caller ID feature.

However, Ferry discloses telecommunication information display system which teaches the following: caller ID on/off switch (62, fig. 4) to control caller ID feature (col. 15 lines 16-24).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Tang's system to provide for the following: activating caller ID feature as this arrangement would facilitate user control of caller ID feature to serve his needs.

Regarding claims 17-22, Tang further teaches the following: electronic device is implemented as a set top device (138, fig. 1), phone manager (this function carried out in CPU 146, fig. 1) of electronic device detects an incoming call of the telephone calls from the telephone network, the phone manager then notifying the caller ID manager (this function carried out in CPU 146, fig. 1) that incoming call has been detected, caller

ID manager displays in appropriate one of the caller identification on a portion of a screen in (156, fig. 1) of the television (156, fig. 1) after the phone manager notifies the caller ID manager that incoming call has been detected, caller identification includes one of a caller name, a caller telephone number, and an incoming call icon, phone manager of the electronic device instructs the telephone to ring after the caller ID has been displayed on the television screen so that a system user may screen the incoming call, caller ID manager displays the caller identification on a display on the electronic device after the pahone manager of the electronic device instructs the telephone to ring (paragraphs: 0017-0020).

8. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Ferry as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Friedel.

The combination differs from claim 23 in that it does not teach the following: user utilizes the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device coupled to the electronic device.

However, Friedel discloses audio visual communication terminal which teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3) as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television (20, fig. 2), and microphone device (26, fig. 3) coupled to the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3, col. 4 lines 15-40; col. 5 lines 46-65).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes

the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device coupled to the electronic device as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, for handling audio information in connection with voice communication as taught by Friedel.

9. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Ferry as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Grundvig et al. (US PAT: 6,061,435, hereinafter Grundvig).

The combination differs from claim 24 in that it does not teach the following: system utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode.

However, Grundvig discloses cordless telephone system having a handset with non-telephone functionality which teaches the following: system utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode (col. 6 lines 5-21).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: system utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode as this arrangement would facilitate the user to handle the incoming call properly when he is watching the television as taught by Grundvig.

10. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Ferry as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Davis.

The combination differs from claim 25 in that it does not teach the following: user utilizes the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time.

However, Davis teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device as answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time (abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time as this arrangement would facilitate receiving telephone calls when user is unable to answer the telephone calls and still obtain necessary information from telephone caller messages so that user can keep up with the telephone calls as is well known in the art.

11. Claims 26-27, 28, 30-31, 33-35, 38, 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Magai (JP05-175769) and Suzuki (JP402202278A).

Regarding claim 26, Tang discloses a method for managing telephonic communications, comprising the steps: communicating with a television programming source through (166, fig. 1) and a telephone network by utilizing an electronic device (138, fig. 1), displaying television programming from the television programming source on a television (156, fig. 1) that is coupled to the electronic device, receiving telephone calls from the telephone network with a telephone (130, fig. 1) coupled to the electronic

device, the electronic device further including a caller ID manager (this function is provided by CPU 146, fig. 1) that controls a caller ID mode (paragraphs: 0017-0019).

Tang differs from claim 26 in that he does not teach the following: electronic device with a TV mute manager for controlling a television mute mode, and phone mute manager that controls a telephone mute mode.

However, Magai discloses electronic device which teaches the following: electronic device with a TV mute manager for controlling a television mute mode (abstract; Drawing 1; paragraph: 0004); and Suzuki discloses display telephone set for telephone incoming message to external monitoring television which teaches the following: phone mute manager that controls a telephone mute mode (fig. 1, see abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Tang's system to provide for the following: electronic device with a TV mute manager for controlling a television mute mode as this arrangement would facilitate to receive incoming telephone calls while watching the television program without causing the television sound volume interfering with telephone conversation as taught by Magai; and phone mute manager that controls a telephone mute mode as this arrangement would prevent inadvertent ringing tones which might impair feelings of subscribers as taught by Suzuki.

Tang differs from claims 28, 31 in that he does not teach the following: TV mute manager controls a television mute mode that may be activated to mute audio programming on television when receiving the telephone calls, TV mute manager mutes

the audio programming on the television after the phone manager notifies the TV mute manager that the incoming call has been detected.

However, Magai teaches the following: TV mute manager controls a television mute mode that may be activated to mute audio programming on television when receiving the telephone calls, TV mute manager mutes the audio programming on the television after the phone manager notifies the TV mute manager that the incoming call has been detected (abstract; Drawing 1; paragraph: 0004).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the Tang's system to provide for the following: TV mute manager controls a television mute mode that may be activated to mute audio programming on television when receiving the telephone calls, TV mute manager mutes the audio programming on the television after the phone manager notifies the TV mute manager that the incoming call has been detected as this arrangement would facilitate to receive incoming telephone calls while watching the television program without causing the television sound volume interfering with telephone conversation as taught by Magai.

Tang differs from claims 30 and 38 in that he does not teach the following: phone mute manager controls telephone mute mode that may be activated to mute telephone ringing when receiving the telephone calls, phone manager notifies the phone mute manager that an incoming call has been detected, the phone mute manager responsively muting the telephone ringing function of the telephone so that audio programming from the television is not interrupted by the incoming call.

However, Suzuki teaches the following: phone mute manager (reads on control circuit 4, fig. 1) controls telephone mute mode that may be activated to mute telephone ringing when receiving the telephone calls, phone manager (reads on reception control part 2, fig. 1) notifies the phone mute manager that an incoming call has been detected, the phone mute manager responsively muting the telephone ringing function of the telephone so that audio programming from the television is not interrupted by the incoming call (see abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the Tang's system to provide for the following: phone mute manager controls telephone mute mode that may be activated to mute telephone ringing when receiving the telephone calls, phone mute manager notifies the phone mute manager that an incoming call has been detected, the phone mute manager responsively muting the telephone ringing function of the telephone so that audio programming from the television is not interrupted by the incoming call as this arrangement would prevent inadvertent ringing tones which might impair feelings of subscribers as taught by Suzuki.

Regarding claims 27, 33, 34-35, Tang teaches the following: electronic device is implemented as a set top device (138, fig. 1), electronic device detects an incoming call of the telephone calls from the telephone network (124, fig. 1), the phone manager (this function is provided by CPU 146, fig. 1) notifying the caller ID manager (this function is provided by CPU 146, fig. 1) that the incoming call has been detected, caller ID manager displays an appropriate one of the caller identifications in a portion of a screen

of the television (156, fig. 1) after the phone manager notifies the caller ID manager that the incoming call has been detected, phone manager of the electronic device instructs the telephone to ring after the caller ID has been displayed on the television so that user system user may screen the incoming call (paragraphs: 17-19).

Claims 40 and 41 are rejected on the same basis as claim 26.

12. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Magai as applied to claim 26 above, and further in view of Ferry.

The combination differs from claim 29 in that it does not specifically teach the following: activating caller ID mode when receiving the telephone calls.

However, Ferry discloses telecommunication information display system which teaches the following: caller ID on/off switch (62, fig. 4) to control caller ID feature (col. 15 lines 16-24).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: activating caller ID feature as this arrangement would facilitate user control of caller ID feature to serve his needs.

13. Claims 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Magai as applied to claim 26 above, and further in view of Friedel.

The combination differs from claim 36 in that it does not teach the following: user utilizes the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device

coupled to the electronic device, electronic device as an answering machine to record the incoming call in order to listen to an incoming call at a latter time.

However, Friedel discloses audio visual communication terminal which teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3) as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television (20, fig. 2), and microphone device (26, fig. 3) coupled to the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3, col. 4 lines 15-40; col. 5 lines 46-65).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device coupled to the electronic device as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, for handling audio information in connection with voice communication as taught by Friedel.

14. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of Davis.

The combination differs from claim 30 in that it does not teach the following: electronic device as an answering machine to record the incoming call in order to listen to an incoming call at a latter time.

However, Davis teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device as answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time (abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time as this arrangement would facilitate receiving telephone calls when user is unable to answer the telephone calls and still obtain necessary information from telephone caller messages so that user can keep up with the telephone calls as is well known in the art.

15. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Magai as applied to claim 26 above, and further in view of Grundvig.

The combination differs from claim 37 in that it does not teach the following: electronic device utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode.

However, Grundvig discloses cordless telephone system having a handset with non-telephone functionality which teaches the following: electronic device utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode (col. 6 lines 5-21).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: electronic device utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode as this arrangement would facilitate the user to handle the incoming call properly when he is watching the television as taught by Grundvig.

16. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Suzuki.

Regarding claim 1, Tang discloses a system for managing telephone communications, comprising: an electronic device (138, fig. 1) configured to communicate with a television programming source (166, fig. 1) and a telephone network (124, fig. 1), a television (156) coupled to the electronic device for displaying the television programming source, a telephone coupled to the electronic device for receiving telephone calls from the telephone network (paragraphs: 0017-0019).

Tang differs from claims 1 and 3-4 in that he does not specifically teach the following: phone mute manager that controls telephone mute mode that may be activated to mute telephone ringing when receiving incoming calls, phone manager notifies the phone mute manager that an incoming call has been detected, the phone mute manager responsively muting a telephone ringing function of the telephone so that the audio programming from the television is not interrupted by the incoming call, phone mute manager generates and transmits a ring mute signal to the telephone when the phone manager notifies the phone mute manager that the incoming call has been detected.

However, Suzuki teaches the following: phone mute manager (reads on control circuit 4, fig. 1) that controls telephone mute mode that may be activated to mute telephone ringing when receiving incoming calls, phone manager (reads on reception control part 2, fig. 1) notifies the phone mute manager that an incoming call has been detected, the phone mute manager responsively muting a telephone ringing function of the telephone so that the audio programming from the television is not interrupted by the incoming call, phone mute manager generates and transmits a ring mute signal to

the telephone when the phone manager notifies the phone mute manager that the incoming call has been detected (fig. 1, see abstract)..

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Tang's system to provide for the following: phone mute manager that controls telephone mute mode that may be activated to mute telephone ringing when receiving incoming calls, phone manager notifies the phone mute manager that an incoming call has been detected, the phone mute manager responsively muting a telephone ringing function of the telephone so that the audio programming from the television is not interrupted by the incoming call, phone mute manager generates and transmits a ring mute signal to the telephone when the phone manager notifies the phone mute manager that the incoming call has been detected as this arrangement would prevent inadvertent ringing tones which might impair feelings of subscribers as taught by Suzuki.

Regarding claim 2, Tang teaches the following: electronic device is implemented as set top device (138, fig. 1).

17. Claims 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Suzuki as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Friedel.

The combination differs from claim 5 in that it does not teach the following: user utilizes the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device coupled to the electronic device, electronic device as an answering machine to record the incoming call in order to listen to an incoming call at a latter time.

However, Friedel discloses audio visual communication terminal which teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3) as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television (20, fig. 2), and microphone device (26, fig. 3) coupled to the electronic device (16, figs. 2-3, col. 4 lines 15-40; col. 5 lines 46-65).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes the electronic device as a hands free telephone device to answer an incoming call by utilizing a phone manager, speakers of the television, and microphone device coupled to the electronic device as this arrangement would provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, for handling audio information in connection with voice communication as taught by Friedel.

18. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Suzuki as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Davis.

The combination differs from claim 6 in that it does not teach the following: user utilizes the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time.

However, Davis teaches the following: user utilizes the electronic device as answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time (abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: user utilizes

the electronic device as an answering machine to record an incoming call in order to listen to incoming call at a later time as this arrangement would facilitate receiving telephone calls when user is unable to answer the telephone calls and still obtain necessary information from telephone caller messages so that user can keep up with the telephone calls as is well known in the art.

19. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of Suzuki as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Grundvig.

The combination differs from claim 1 in that it does not teach the following:
electronic device utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode.

However, Grundvig discloses cordless telephone system having a handset with non-telephone functionality which teaches the following: electronic device utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode (col. 6 lines 5-21).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: electronic device utilizes call ID mode at the same time as utilizing TV mute mode as this arrangement would facilitate the user to handle the incoming call properly when he is watching the television as taught by Grundvig.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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